

VICE-REGAL COMMISSION ON IRISH RAILWAYS, INCLUDING
LIGHT RAILWAYS.

FIRST REPORT
OF
THE COMMISSIONERS.



Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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VICE-REGAL COMMISSION ON IRISH RAILWAYS,
INCLUDING LIGHT RAILWAYS.

WARRANT APPOINTING THE COMMISSION.

DUBLIN CASTLE,

July 19, 1906.

The Lord Lieutenant has been pleased to issue a Commission to the following effect:—

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

ABERDEEN.

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that a Commission should issue to inquire into the present working of Railways in Ireland, including Light Railways, and to report how far they afford, separately or in conjunction with other means of transit, adequate facilities for the cheap and rapid transport of goods and passengers within the island and to Great Britain; what causes have retarded the expansion of traffic upon the Irish lines and their full utilisation for the development of the agricultural and industrial resources of the country; and, generally, by what methods the economical, efficient, and harmonious working of the Irish Railways can best be secured:

Now We, John Campbell, Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint you, Sir Charles Scotter, Chairman of the London and South-Western Railway (Chairman); the Right Honourable William James Pirrie, Chairman of Harland and Wolff, Limited, Shipbuilders and Engineers; Sir Herbert Jekyll, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, an Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trade; Lieutenant-Colonel William Hutcheson Poë, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Thomas Sexton, Esquire; William Mitchell Acworth, Esquire; and John Audley Frederick Aspinall, Esquire, General Manager of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, to be Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid.

And for the better effecting the purpose of this Our Commission, We do by these presents authorise and empower you, or any two or more of you to be named by you, to call before you or any two or more of you, to be so named, such persons as you may think fit to examine, and by whom you may be the better informed of the matter hereby submitted for your consideration and everything connected therewith, and generally to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever. And also to call for and examine such books, papers, documents, writings, or records, as you or any two or more of you as aforesaid shall think useful for the purpose of the inquiry.

And We also by these presents authorise and empower you, or any two or more of you as aforesaid, to visit and personally inspect such places as you, or any two or more of you, may deem expedient for the purpose aforesaid. And Our pleasure is that you, or any two or more of you as aforesaid, do from time to time and with all convenient speed report to Us what you shall find touching and concerning the premises.

And We further by these presents ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our Commissioners, do from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, although the same not be continued from time to time by adjournment.

And We do hereby appoint George E. Shanahan, Esquire, the Assistant Secretary to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, to be the Secretary of this Our Commission.

Given at His Majesty's Castle at Dublin, this 18th day of July, 1906.

By His Excellency's Command

J. B. DOUGHERTY.

VICE-REGAL COMMISSION ON IRISH RAILWAYS.

FIRST REPORT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the Commissioners appointed by Your Excellency, on 18th July, 1906,

"To inquire into the present working of Railways in Ireland, including Light Railways, and to report how far they afford, separately, or in conjunction with other means of transit, adequate facilities for the cheap and rapid transport of goods and passengers within the island, and to Great Britain; what causes have retarded the expansion of traffic upon the Irish lines and their full utilisation for the development of the agricultural and industrial resources of the country; and, generally, by what methods the economical, efficient, and harmonious working of the Irish Railways can best be secured,"

Availing ourselves of Your Excellency's permission to report our proceedings from time to time, consider it desirable to submit to Your Excellency, as an Appendix to this Preliminary Report, minutes of the evidence taken in Dublin and in London from the 12th October, 1906, to the 1st March last, inclusive; and statements and returns that have been furnished to us in connection therewith, together with certain tables, and an index.

We think the immediate publication of these documents is desirable.

All of which we humbly submit for Your Excellency's most gracious consideration.



CHAS. SCOTTER, *Chairman.*

PIRRIE.

HERBERT JEKYLL.

W. HUTCHESON POE.

T. SEXTON.

W. M. ACWORTH.

JOHN A. F. ASPINALL.

GEO. E. SHANAHAN,

Secretary.

DUBLIN. Dated this 9th day of July, 1907.